

## Economic Development Administration, Commerce

## § 302.3

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 3211; Department of Commerce Organization Order 10-4.

SOURCE: 64 FR 5355, Feb. 3, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

### § 302.1 Designation of Economic Development Districts.

EDA will designate a proposed district as an Economic Development District with the concurrence of the State or States in which the District will be wholly or partially located, when the proposed district meets the following requirements:

(a) It is of sufficient size or population, and contains sufficient resources, to foster economic development on a scale involving more than a single eligible area;

(b) It has an EDA approved strategy which:

(1) Contains a specific program for intra-district cooperation, self-help, and public investment;

(2) Is approved by each affected State;

(3) Identifies problems, and conditions underlying economic distress in the district; and

(4) Promotes economic development opportunities, plans for transportation access, enhancement and protection of the environment and balances resources through sound management of development;

(c) It contains at least one area, eligible for assistance under §301.2, that has been identified in an approved strategy;

(d) At least a majority of the counties, or other areas as determined by EDA, within the proposed district boundaries have submitted documentation of their commitment to support the economic development activities of the district;

(e) A district organization has been established in the proposed district which meets the requirements of §302.4; and

(f) The proposed district organization requests such designation.

### § 302.2 Designation of nonfunded districts.

The continuing designation of any Economic Development District is subject to the criteria and organization requirements of this part whether or not

the Economic Development District organization receives any EDA financial assistance.

### § 302.3 District organizations.

(a) The district shall be organized in one of the following ways:

(1) As a public organization through an intergovernmental agreement for the joint exercise of local government powers; or

(2) As a public organization established under State enabling legislation for the creation of multi-jurisdictional area wide planning organizations; or

(3) As a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State in which it is located.

(b) Each district organization must meet EDA requirements concerning membership composition [§302.3(c)], the maintenance of adequate staff support to perform its economic development functions [§302.3(d)], and its authorities and responsibilities for carrying out economic development functions [§302.4]. Such requirements must also be met by the board of directors (or other governing body of the organization) as a whole.

(c) The district organization shall demonstrate that its governing body meets all of the following requirements:

(1) It is broadly representative of the principal economic interests of the district area including the interests of its minority and low-income populations;

(2) There is at least a simple majority of its membership who are elected officials and/or employees of a general purpose unit of local government who have been appointed to represent the government; and

(3) At least 20 percent of its membership who are private citizens, i.e., neither elected officials of a general purpose unit of local government nor employees of such a government who have been appointed to represent that government.

(d) The district organization shall be assisted by a professional staff drawn from qualified persons in economic development, planning or related disciplines. EDA may provide planning grants to Economic Development Districts to employ professional staff in